



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 13, 2015
Planning and Development Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

Proposed Senate Bill No. 678–AAC MUNICIPAL FLOOD ZONE MAPS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Proposed Senate Bill No. 678, AAC Municipal Flood Zone Maps. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP, particularly its Inland Water Resources Division (IWRD), oversees and assists with the municipal implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). NFIP flood zone maps are prepared by FEMA, not by town engineers, and it is questionable whether town engineers have the legal authority or, in some cases, the technical expertise to prepare their own flood zone maps. More significantly, by transferring responsibility for flood zone mapping, the bill could have ramifications for the eligibility of Connecticut municipalities and their residents to obtain flood insurance under the NFIP. If the issue is whether the maps correctly depict flood hazards in particular instances, FEMA does have a procedure for amending the maps.

In any event, DEEP would be happy to work with the Committee, our FEMA colleagues and the proponents of this bill to discuss issues concerning FEMA flood zone maps and to help develop any appropriate legislative resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).